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To Elijah Paine and Isaac Tichenor Esqrs. Senators in Congress
from the State of Vermont.

Gentlemen

With particular pleasure I receive the unanimous address of the Council and General Assembly of the State of Vermont. Altho: but lately admitted into the union yet the importance of your State its love of liberty and its energy were manifested in the earliest period of the revolution which established our independence. Unconnected in name only but in reality united with the Confederated States these feel and acknowledge the benefits of your cooperation. Their mutual safety and advantage duly appreciated will never permit this union to be dissolved. I enjoy great happiness in the testimony you have presented, and in the other proofs exhibited from various parts of our country, that the operation of our General Government have justified the hopes of our citizens at its formation which is recognized as the end of mutual prosperity. The voluntary acknowledgements of my fellow citizens persuade me to believe that my agency has contributed to produce this effect. This belief will be to me a source of permanent satisfaction and these acknowledgements a rich reward. My sincere thanks are due and I beg you Gentlemen to make them acceptable to the Council and General Assembly of the State of Vermont for the very obliging and affectionate terms in which they notice me and my public services. To such confidence and support as I have experienced from Council Legislative aſsemblies and the great body of American citizens, I owed the best exertion of every faculty I possessed, happy now in the reflection that our joint labors have been crowned with success. When withdrawn to the shades of private life I shall view with growin pleasure the increasing prosperity of the United States in the perfect protection of their Government.
I trust to enjoy my indulging a favorite wish of my heart in agricultural pursuits. I may hope to make my private business an advancement of some use to my Country.

George Washington

United States
12 Decr. 1796